GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1987
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Association of Asian Election Authorities
Kulaste Shri Faggan Singh;Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) was held in the country recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the issues discussed in the said meeting and the decisions taken thereon;
(c) whether any special training programme for Asian election officials has been proposed by the Election Commission of India;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the salient features/objectives of the said programme; and
(e) the names of the member countries of the AAEA along with the countries which are likely to participate in the said training programme?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)
(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1987 FOR 10th DECEMBER, 2015
(a) to (b): The Election Commission has informed that they have recently hosted the 2015 Executive Board meeting of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) in New Delhi on 15-16 September, 2015. The Executive Board decided to invite Election Authorities from other Asian countries to seek membership of the Association. The Executive Board also agreed on an uploaded Work Plan for 2015-2016, which would include exchange of experiences through election visits, conferences and seminars on election-related themes and capacity building of Election Authorities in the region.
(c): The Election Commission has further informed that Training Division of the Election Commission has not proposed any training programme for officials of Asian Election Authorities. However, India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)/Training Division has conducted 17 training programmes since 2011 till date in which officials of Election Management Bodies of countries including South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Commonwealth network, and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Partner countries have participated.
(d): The objectives of the programmes is to build the capacity of the officers of Election Management Bodies in the field of election management and the subjects (topics) discussed are − "Democracy, Free and Fair elections and International Standards Crowd sourcing and Electoral Risk Management Tool (ERMT), Electronic Voting Machines & Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial, Political Finance Monitoring, Gender, Disability, Technology, Voter Registration, Voter Education, Campaign Expenditure Monitoring, Election Dispute Resolution including use of Technology, Conduct of Elections and Result Transmission".
(e): The Election Commission has informed that the names of the participating country for training programme are finalized when a proposal is prepared. A list of member countries of Association of Asian Election Authorities is enclosed as Annexure-1.
ANNEXURE-1
Salient features/objectives of Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA)
India is a founding member of AAEA which was established in 1998 and, with admission of three new members in 2014, now has 20 member-countries. Besides India, other members are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Election Commission of India elected Chair of Association of AAEA in 2014 General Assembly Meeting of AAEA for the next two years.